



THE NATIONAL Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

1026 17th STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MORE THAN MONEY CAN BUY

At 4 a.m. on August 26, 1920, a registered letter was delivered in Washington, D.C., to the office of the United States Secretary of State.

The letter was immediately taken to the Solicitor General, who had stayed up all night waiting for it.

He certified its contents, then sent it to the home of the Secretary of State, who at 8 a.m. signed a proclamation declaring in effect an amendment to the Constitution.

The letter? It was postmarked Tennessee and contained that state's certification of ratification of the amendment.

The proclamation? It was public notice that ratification by the necessary number of 36 states had been received, examined, accepted, recorded, and the amendment was now in force.

The amendment? It was the 19th, which gave women the right to vote.

Yet the only witness to the signing of this historic proclamation was the Secretary's secretary.

Where Was Mrs. Catt?

And where was the leader of the woman suffrage association? Where was the extraordinary Carrie Chapman Catt, who had dedicated her life to finishing the 72-year-old fight to give women a voice in their government?

Mrs. Catt, tired but exhilarated at the thought of victory, was on her way from Tennessee to Washington.

She had completed six weeks of arduous campaigning on behalf of the amendment and had seen the legislature of the 36th state ratify it. Victory was close—but close, too, were the "anti's" who did not want

the ratification to stand. So Mrs. Catt stayed on.

Every parliamentary maneuver was attempted in frantic efforts to have the ratification reconsidered. But the Governor signed and mailed the document to the Secretary of State.

Mrs. Catt then alerted the Solicitor General that the document was Washington-bound. Hearing of a threat of an injunction against the issuing of the proclamation, she urged him to process the certificate speedily and thus forestall the final delaying device.

Then she left for Washington, arriving a few short hours after the proclamation had been issued.

It was not important to her that she missed the pomp and circumstance of a signing ceremony. The important thing was to finish the job.

Omega, Alpha

Ratification itself was not an end. It was a beginning.

"The vote is won," said Mrs. Catt. "But human affairs with their eternal change move on without pause. Progress is calling to you to make no pause. Act!"

And, without pause, the suffrage leaders acted by working through the League of Women Voters, which they had already set up.

Citizenship schools to teach women their rights and responsibilities as voters were the most immediate need.

In addition, some 69 legislative items were recommended at the first Convention in 1920, with the sober note that it was not expected that this entire program would be achieved in one year.

But five years might be sufficient, and after that "a new determination

can then be made as to the advisability of a continuance of the League."

However, five years later the League didn't even pause to consider whether, like the dinosaur, it was extinct. It was too busy at work on get-out-the-vote campaigns, social legislation, election law reforms.

And 15 years later the League couldn't pause for reconsideration because it was carrying on one of the most intensive nation-wide campaigns for a merit system in all branches of government.

Now, 40 years later, the League of Women Voters is still at work—on new problems as well as some old ones.

It is like the man who came to dinner and stayed on and on.

And it would take a formidable host indeed to turn out the some 127,000 League members in 1,097 communities throughout the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Women at Work

Mrs. Catt went to Tennessee to stay a few days. She stayed for six weeks and had to wire to New York for her clothes. She had to stay till the job was finished.

League members stay on the job till it is finished.

Take, for instance, the League campaign in Illinois to get a judicial amendment to the state constitution.

Over 1,800 talks were made by members before service groups, PTAs, church and school groups. A sound filmstrip was shown over 600 times; 55,000 postcards were sent out. And one League reported that 280 of its members made 19,500 phone calls with 16,500 of them completed.

The amendment lost, but the next day Illinois Leagues met to plan new strategy and lay fresh plans to get the amendment.

As a suffrage leader said in a 1915 setback in the woman suffrage campaign, "the amendment was not defeated, only postponed."

Or take suffrage for the District of Columbia. It has been on the League Program a long time—federal suffrage since 1924, home rule since 1938. In June 1960 Congress passed and submitted to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment giving D.C. citizens the right to vote for President and Vice President.

But ask a Leaguer how she feels about this victory and she will say, "Fine—now what about home rule?"

In fact a Leaguer never gives up on anything. One local League needed a large get-out-the-vote sign during an important election. There was no money in the budget for it. But the Voters Service Chairman found a way. Her birthday was coming up, and when her husband asked her what she wanted she said a two-by-ten-foot sign for the League. And that's what she got.

Experts Made—Not Born

One of the important by-products of League tenacity is the body of experts that have resulted.

League members work for the good of the whole—whole community, whole League. The typical member takes on any assignment given to her. She is seldom an expert in anything—when she begins, that is. But often a member becomes so interested in her assignment that finally she is an expert.

In Louisiana, for example, the League was primarily responsible for getting passed a permanent registration law which is considered a model. And one Leaguer who worked on it became so expert that now she is consulted by the National Municipal League.

And in the voteless District of Columbia, a Voters Service Chairman became such a specialist in absentee voting laws that she has gained national recognition.

Time

Time is something the devoted Leaguer gives freely—and for free.

The New Orleans League one year learned that "a few thousand" delinquent voters required notification

for reinstatement or they would be dropped from the rolls under the permanent registration law.

The "few thousand" turned out to be 19,847. But League members rolled up their sleeves. All they had were names and addresses. A painstaking check led to removal of many names listed. Some people had died, others had moved away. Some had moved only to another part of the city.

The League's next step was to look up telephone numbers for those still in town. Then members phoned these delinquent voters and explained to them how they could reinstate their names on the rolls.

As a result, 13,638 voters reinstated themselves. Total cost to the League? Six weeks of the time of 187 members.

—and Space

Space, too, is given freely and for free. Many a League officer finds it necessary to devote one of her home closets to League papers. One state League President set up her office in her dining room. It already had a piano and organ in it, but she cleared one end for the League and added desk, filing cabinet, typewriter, shelves for books and pamphlets. "We almost never eat there," she admits.

As Others See Us

As a recent article in *The Denver Post* said:

"Many have marveled at the League's ability to accomplish so much with so few and so little money.

"The really big item in their budget is dedication and time. Time is freely given by each member and they are a dedicated group with a big purpose, that of helping every citizen become a better one."

A University of Michigan survey of the League showed that even the moderately active member gives one to two hours a week to League work.

And *The New York Times* wrote, shortly before election day in 1958:

"Few paid employees would work with the devotion, the sense of dedication to a cause, that distinguishes the League of Women Voters. . . . If the 200,000 hours of volunteered unpaid work donated by officers and members [of the New York City League] were paid at only one dollar an hour the budget would have to be a quarter of a million dollars a

year."

Yet, nation-wide, expenditures by the League at the three combined levels (local, state, national) total only slightly over \$1.5 million a year. Approximately 60 percent of that total is spent by local Leagues in their own communities; 26 percent for state work; 14 percent for national work.

More Than Money Can Buy

And what do still others think of the League?

Ever since Leaguers first served as poll watchers at primaries in an Alabama town, they have been fondly referred to as "those women." As one citizen said: "Until the League was on the job, no one had ever been convicted of an election-law fraud."

Citizens of other countries, too, have taken notice of the League's work. And in Colombia, two years ago, the Union de Ciudadanas (League of Women Citizens) was founded largely at the suggestion of the country's President, Alberto Lleras Camargo, who had observed the League's work during his term as Ambassador to the United States.

But one of the nicest compliments paid to the League was that made by a New England druggist.

A member who was attending a League Council meeting in New Hampshire had trouble with her eyes and went into a drugstore for a prescription.

She told the druggist she was a physician, and started pulling out identification from her purse.

"You don't have to show me identification," the druggist said. "I can see from your name tag that you are a League of Women Voters member."

"Well," she said. "That may prove who I am but it doesn't prove I am a doctor."

"If you are a League member, you are an honest woman," he replied. "So if you say you are a doctor that is good enough for me."

"You can't take it with you" . . .
. . . but you can make sure it will do
League work. . .

Here are three simple ways:

1. Make a direct bequest to the League in your will.
 2. Provide for a direct transfer.
 3. Set up a trust.
- Consult your bank and your attorney as to how best to carry out your wishes.

CONGRESSIONAL ROUNDUP

Congress adjourned early July 3 after agreeing to reconvene in August, following the national party conventions. The Senate will meet August 8, the House August 15. Considerable unfinished business awaits the return of members to Washington.

Nine of the 12 regular appropriations bills and two supplemental appropriations for fiscal 1960 and 1961 were sent to the President before adjournment. The Mutual Security appropriation passed by the House June 17 was still in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

What Congress Did

Action was completed on the following.

CIVIL RIGHTS (H.R. 8601, P.L. 86-449):

- Provided penalties for obstruction of federal court orders;
- provided procedures for bringing civil suits to protect Negroes' right to vote;
- required that voting records and registrations for federal elections be preserved for 22 months, directed that such records be turned over to the Attorney General on written application;
- made it a federal crime to cross state lines to avoid prosecution or punishment; to avoid giving evidence on bombings or burnings; to transport or possess explosives to be used for this purpose; and to use interstate facilities, such as telephones, to threaten a bombing or give a false bomb scare;
- extended the Civil Rights Commission for two years and empowered it to administer oaths and take sworn statements;
- authorized arrangements for education of children of members of the armed services when their schools had been closed because of integration.

D.C. NATIONAL REPRESENTATION (S.J. Res. 39): Passed and sent to the states for ratification a proposed constitutional amendment which would give District citizens the right to vote for three electors (the number apportioned to the states with the smallest population) in the Electoral College. If ratified by three fourths of the states within seven years, the measure will become

the 23rd Amendment to the Constitution. Hawaii was the first state to ratify.

FEDERAL PAY RAISE (H.R. 9883, P.L. 86-568): Passed over the President's veto, the law authorizes an across-the-board 7.5 percent pay increase for 1.6 million federal classified and postal workers. This was the 169th veto handed down by President Eisenhower, the 12th of this session of Congress, and the second to be overridden.

IDA (H.R. 11101, P.L. 86-565): Authorized the President to accept membership for the United States in the International Development Association. Also authorized appropriations of \$320,290,000, without fiscal year limitation, as the U.S. contribution. The first installment of the appropriation under this authorization was made when Congress appropriated \$77,666,700 to the Treasury for IDA, in a fiscal 1961 supplemental appropriation.

MUTUAL SECURITY AUTHORIZATION (H.R. 11510, P.L. 86-472):

- Authorized \$1,405,500,000 for economic assistance (defense support, technical cooperation, special assistance, other programs) and the President's contingency fund for fiscal 1961. (A two-year authorization for the Development Loan Fund and military funds was passed in 1959.)

Also, among other things:

- affirmed willingness of United States to participate in the Indus River Basin development program, waiving requirements that 50 percent of foreign-aid goods be shipped in American-flag vessels;
- reworded purposes of the Development Loan Fund to emphasize agricultural as well as industrial development and to encourage making loans to stimulate private investment and development of "free economic institutions";
- urged DLF participation in self-liquidating pilot housing projects in Latin America;
- directed the President to undertake a study of possibilities for coordinating federal agencies engaged in foreign economic activities and to present findings, as part of the fiscal 1962 program;
- directed the President to arrange for a nongovernmental study of the

advisability of establishing a Point Four Youth Corps;

- established a Center of Cultural and Technical Interchange in Hawaii and authorized the Secretary of State to draw up plans for a western hemisphere cultural center in Puerto Rico.

COLORADO RIVER PROJECT

(S. 1892, P.L. 86-529): Authorized construction of the Norman, Oklahoma, Federal Reclamation Project. This bill also lowered the repayment requirements on part of the Colorado River Storage Project by changing the formula for computing federal interest rates on money borrowed for the project.

DEBT LIMIT, TAX RATES (H.R. 12381, P.L. 86-564):

- Increased the national debt limit for one year, through June 30, 1961, from its permanent level of \$285 billion to \$293 billion;
- continued until July 1, 1961, the 52 percent tax rate on corporations and certain mutual insurance companies, excise rates set by Revenue Act of 1951 on distilled spirits, beer, wine, cigarettes, passenger cars, and auto accessories, and the 10 percent tax on passenger transportation and local telephone service;
- provided that, effective December 31, 1960, the percentage depletion allowance for certain minerals could not be computed on the selling price of the finished product;
- directed the Treasury Department and the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation to study and report to the next Congress on the effectiveness of current Internal Revenue Service regulation in curbing excessive tax deductions for business entertainment expenses.

SUGAR ACT EXTENSION (H.R. 12311, P.L. 86-592):

Extended the Sugar Act of 1958, due to expire December 31, 1960, through March 31, 1961; gave the President complete authority to determine the amount of sugar to be imported from Cuba; specified the manner in which the President was to obtain sugar to make up for any reduction in the supply from Cuba.

REFUGEE IMMIGRATION (H.J. Res. 397, P.L. 86-648):

- Authorized resettlement in the United States of refugees under the

mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

- set up a plan whereby the Attorney General would admit, of the estimated 28,000 or fewer refugee-escapees in Western Europe, one fourth of the total number resettled by other countries;

- increased by 500 the number of Portuguese nationals from the Azores, added a year's annual quota (3,136) to the number of special visas available for Netherlands nationals expelled from Indonesia, and extended the expiration date for issuance of the visas through June 30, 1962;

- extended from June 30, 1960, to June 30, 1961, the special program for admission of alien orphans.

TREATIES: The Senate took affirmative action on 17 treaties, among them the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan; the 31-nation Florence Agreement providing for duty-free entry of educational, scientific, and cultural materials; and conventions on the law of the sea.

Unfinished Business

Senate Majority Leader Johnson (D., Tex.) announced June 29 a list of bills upon which action had not been completed, which would make it necessary for Congress to reconvene. Some of these are:

AID-TO-AGED (H.R. 12580): Passed by the House June 23, this bill provided increased Social Security benefits and a state-option health-benefits program for the aged. The Senate Finance Committee held hearings June 29-30 but took no further action.

EDUCATION AID (S. 8, H.R. 10128): The Senate bill, passed February 4, provided \$1.8 billion over two years for school construction and teachers' salaries. The House bill, passed May 26, authorized \$1.3 billion over four years for school construction only. The House Rules Committee June 22 refused to send the bill to conference.

MINIMUM WAGE (H.R. 12677, S. 3725): The House bill passed June 30 increased the minimum wage to \$1.15 for 23.7 million workers and extended coverage, at \$1 an hour, to 1.4 additional workers. The Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee reported a bill raising the minimum wage to \$1.25 an hour for employees covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and extending wage-and-hour coverage

under the Act to an estimated 5 million workers.

HOUSING (S. 3670, H.R. 12603): The Senate June 6 passed a \$1.2 billion omnibus housing bill. A similar measure was reported June 20 by the House Banking and Currency Committee but the House Rules Committee June 28 refused to clear it for floor action.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS (H.R. 5): A tax-incentive bill to spur private investment in underdeveloped countries was passed by the House May 18 and the Senate Finance Committee had begun hearings.

SALINE WATER (S. 3557): The Senate passed a bill to expand the saline water program June 24, but the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee did not act.

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS (H.R. 11207): A bill increasing the lending authority of the Small Business Administration by \$150 million was passed by the House June 6; the Senate version, passed July 1, cut the increase to \$75 million. The bill was sent back to the House.

ANTARCTIC TREATY: Senator Johnson said July 2 that the Senate would take up the Antarctic Treaty as soon as it reconvenes.

More Unfinished Business

Some other measures on which action was not completed which might receive attention at the August session are:

DEPRESSED AREAS: The Senate May 24 sustained the President's veto of the \$251 million depressed areas bill (S. 722). No action was taken on an Administration compromise proposal (S. 3569, H.R. 12286).

PAYOLA (S. 1898): A minor Senate-passed bill to which the House June 28 attached provisions adding federal controls over radio and television payola and program-rigging was sent back June 29 to the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce

Committee for a study of House amendments. Hearings begin August 10.

INTERNAL SECURITY (S. 2652): The Senate Judiciary Committee June 30 reported an omnibus security measure with four provisions, each corresponding to a bill passed by the House in 1959. The measure

- included requirement of registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of persons employed by U.S. groups "supervised" by foreign governments;

- provided judicial procedures for prosecution of espionage and other acts against the United States committed anywhere in the world;

- redefined the Smith Act prohibition against organizing a group advocating forcible overthrow of the government in order to clarify that "organizing" means more than the initial setting up of an organization; it would also refer to continuing organizational activities. This provision would, in effect, overturn a Supreme Court ruling in the Yates case (June 17, 1957);

- permitted the Secretary of State to deny passports to Communists and Communist sympathizers.

WORLD COURT (S. Res. 94): The Senate Foreign Relations Committee March 29 postponed action on a resolution to repeal the Connally reservation to U.S. membership in the World Court. This reservation permits the United States to determine whether the subject of a dispute is or is not within the jurisdiction of the Court.

No Action Likely

Major proposals that appear certain to be ignored in August include the President's requests for a postal-rate increase, for gasoline and aviation gas tax increases, for removal of the 4.25 percent interest ceiling on long-term Government bonds, and for a change in the basic immigration law.

Action is also unlikely on the District of Columbia Home Rule proposal, although a discharge petition to bring a bill to the House floor had 204 of the 219 needed signatures as Congress adjourned July 3.

The President July 11 announced that he would send a message to Congress "promptly" proposing a program for economic development in Latin America and requesting funds to implement such a program.

THE NATIONAL VOTER

Vol. X July-August, 1960 No. 4

Published 10 times a year, monthly with exception of August and December, by the League of Women Voters of the United States
1026 17th St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

MRS. ROBERT J. PHILLIPS, President
DOROTHY FELKER GINTON, Editor
Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 a year in United States and U. S. territories and possessions, Canada, Mexico;

all other countries, \$1.50 a year
single copy: 10 cents
(Quantity prices on request)

Printed by National Publishing Co.